

William Dunbar

Tape No. 36-4b-1-98

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

William Dunbar (WD)

Kaunakakai, Moloka'i

June 1, 1998

BY: Jeanne Johnston (JJ)

JJ: This is Jeanne Johnston and I am interviewing William Dunbar. The date is June 1, 1998 and we're located in . . .

WD: Kainalu.

JJ: Kainalu, Moloka'i, Hawai'i.

Okay. Here we go then, William. Would start with telling me where you were born and when you were born?

WD: I was born in San Francisco, California, January 15, 1914.

JJ: How long did you live in San Francisco?

WD: We lived there until after the—let's see. Nineteen fifteen was the world's fair in San Francisco. My aunt and uncle who lived there in Moloka'i came to San Francisco for the fair. And I don't know what happened but the way I get it, my father pushed my mother down the stairs and broke her leg. So my grandfather told my aunt, Mrs. Munro, that he wanted her to bring my mother, my brother, myself down to Hawai'i. So we came down to Hawai'i.

JJ: How did you get here?

WD: Came by ship. I don't remember the ship, I mean I was only a year and a half old. Then we came to Moloka'i. And then in 1916, my uncle bought this piece of property, Kainalu. And in 1917, my mother, my brother, and myself moved out to this house here and we stayed here until the war started. Then we went up into Kualapu'u where my uncle was manager of Moloka'i Ranch and we stayed there.

JJ: Can you describe the house that you lived in when you first got to Moloka'i?

WD: When we first got to Moloka'i, my uncle was in with—the whole house which is situated where Pau Hāna [Inn] is on Moloka'i. And actually that big banyan tree in front of Pau Hāna on the beach side was planted by my aunt, and the mango trees and all the trees around that. That's where we first stayed.

JJ: And you were with your mother. What was your mother's name?

WD: Lucille.

JJ: And her maiden name?

WD: Lucille Mutch Dunbar.

JJ: So there were---you stayed there and then you moved out to Kainalu?

WD: Well, we stayed there then after they bought this place, then we had some pigs here and ducks and everything when people had the place before. So we stayed out here and they had one worker here. So we came out and stayed here for my aunt and uncle until the war broke out and when that happened then we moved. They then moved to Kualapu'u from Kaunakakai.

JJ: What was the reason for the move, do you know?

WD: Well, George Cooke was manager of the ranch then—I believe it was George. No, I think my uncle's brother, George Munro, who was on Lāna'i. He was called a good man. He was interested in the place. He was manager of the ranch so he went to my uncle Jim. And Uncle Jim came over here and he went to Lāna'i and Uncle Jim took over the ranch for the Cookes.

JJ: What was Jim's last name?

WD: Munro.

JJ: Munro, okay.

WD: M-U-N-R-O. So then we stayed down there where that old Pau Hāna is now. That was a big home they had. Then we moved to Kualapu'u when Mr. Cooke, George Cooke, and his wife moved up to Kauluwai. And we stayed at that big home in Kualapu'u, was the ranch manager's home. We stayed there until, I think it was till 1921, I think. And then my uncle left the ranch and we moved out here (to Kainalu).

JJ: Did you go to school here on Moloka'i?

WD: Yeah. The first school I went to was up in Kala'e, when we lived at Kualapu'u. My mother was a teacher and we used to ride horseback. My mother on the horse, and one kid in front and one kid in back. (Chuckles) Up to Kala'e School and then rode back home. Then when we moved (to Kainalu). My mother was a teacher at Kalua'aha School. We caught the bus every morning and went to school there until eighth grade. And then after eighth grade, we went to Honolulu. (My mother taught at a school before you get to Kaimukī called Kūhiō School.)

JJ: Where did you go to school up there?

WD: I went to Punahou [School] first, and then they raised the tuition. My mother couldn't afford to send me so then I went to Roosevelt [High School]. And I was the first class to graduate from Roosevelt on Nehoa [Street] there.

JJ: What year did you graduate?

WD: [Nineteen] thirty-three.

JJ: Nineteen thirty-three? So did you go on to college or come back to the outer islands?

WD: No, I just went to work.

JJ: Where did you start working?

WD: After I graduated, I went to the Mainland, went to Alaska for three months and then came back and then went to work. And it was the 34th legislature. I went to work in the legislature for George Cooke. Then I worked for George Cooke when the session was over. I came back to Moloka'i and I stayed two years over there (with Mr. Cooke). Then I went back down to Honolulu. I went to work in Honolulu.

JJ: What did you do there?

WD: Then I went to work for the Hawaiian Trust Company. And then I came up here—well, I got married and I came up here for vacation. And then the war broke out and they drafted me 1-A. So then I went into the navy and went through Pearl Harbor. After Pearl Harbor, I didn't go back to work for the trust company. I went to work for McCabe, Hamilton, & Renny.

JJ: Were you at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed?

WD: Yeah.

JJ: Can you tell me . . .

WD: I just missed the strafing at the gate by five minutes.

JJ: Wow.

WD: I just got there and then—my office was downstairs in the basement. And when I heard the bombing and I ran out there, there's a Jap plane right by Hickam [Field] going up. But I missed all the strafing at the gate. Otherwise I would have been pushing daisies now.

JJ: What did you think when you saw the airplane go by?

WD: What?

JJ: What did you think when you saw that Japanese plane go by?

WD: Oh, I saw it, I knew it was a Jap plane (when I saw the red meatball on the side of the plane).

JJ: So that must've been a very, very exciting day for you.

WD: Oh yeah, then they sent me home. I went home. Told me to get back by 4:00 [PM] Pearl Harbor Road then was just two lanes like it is here. And then all these people coming in so I had to leave home—I lived up at Mānoa up at Woodlawn [Drive] in Mānoa. So I had to leave up there by two o'clock to get to Pearl Harbor at four o'clock. And then I didn't get home for two days.

Then I stayed in for—I got out after the war ended but I wasn't officially discharged until

December because I had so much time, you know. So I went in as first class and got out (December 8, 1945) supposedly as a lieutenant junior grade, but my papers came back as an ensign. So I got out as an ensign.

But it was quite scary, the first one, because when they dropped the big bomb, it would (of destroyed) the building I was in which was right next to number one dry dock. And when that bomb hit the side of the dry dock, where the *Pennsylvania* was in, it just took out a slab (of the dry dock and damaged the *Pennsylvania* and the *Cassin* and *Downes* which were in the dry dock ahead of the *Penn[sylvania]*). It really rattled the building. We were all on secret stuff so we were downstairs, had these big steel doors. So we had to close one and we jammed the other with big blocks so in case they hit the building we wouldn't be caught like rats down there. But they didn't hit the building so we were all right. (Laughs) It was kind of spooky for a while. So that was it. That was Pearl Harbor.

So then I came up here in October of '46.

JJ: So you weren't on Moloka'i then, during the 1946 tidal wave.

WD: No, I wasn't. I was in Honolulu. Matter of fact, I was at McCabe, Hamilton, & Renny's, I don't know if you knew where that was. You know where Love's Bakery is?

JJ: Mm hmm [yes].

WD: Used to be? Well, just a little bit beyond that, on the ocean side, was McCabe, Hamilton, & Renny. They had a loft up there where they used to do all the rope work, and cable work, and whatnot. Somebody was up there and hollered, "Tidal wave," or something. So I ran upstairs to look and, sure enough, there was a Matson ship that started out. And then there was just no water, you know. And the ship was just, not on its side, but just down. Till the water came in again and then it went on out.

I jumped in my car and I ran out to Kewalo—I don't know if you remember the old Kewalo Inn.

JJ: Yes.

WD: Which was right across. Well, if you look right out, see the entrance, huh? The sampans were going out and they were stuck in the middle until the water came back in and then they went on out. Then I went on back down to McCabe. But I wasn't (on Moloka'i when it hit).

JJ: Now, you said in 1923, though, that you remember that one, in Moloka'i.

WD: Yeah, that happened right here. I remember that. But that was just a small one, it was just like high tide, that one.

JJ: Can you describe what that looked like?

WD: Well, it's just like—it didn't come in the yard even because right down there, it didn't even come in the yard. It just came up over the stone wall and then we seen it, and then went out. And it didn't go way down. It didn't take all the water out like they usually do. And then it came in and went out and that's it. We were having lunch when that happened because we were all sitting at the dining room table. Well, it was uncle who said, "Oh, it could be a tidal wave is happening."

But we didn't move because nothing happened. But I was just a little kid then so. But I remember it, I remember them saying, the folks saying, there was a tidal wave.

JJ: So they knew in 1923, they knew that that was a tidal wave?

WD: Well, the only reason why I knew it because they (my folks were) talking about it. I knew that they'd said it was a tidal wave. But other than that, I didn't know anything.

JJ: So, after the war, did you stay in Honolulu and work?

WD: Yeah, I stayed and worked for McCabe until—well, let's see. I got out—when was the war over '44? (I discharged December 8, 1945.)

JJ: I think so, '44 or '45.

WD: Yeah, and then I got out and then—I got out of the navy, I was discharged, but I wasn't officially discharged because I had leave time that I didn't use while I was in. So I wasn't officially discharged until December 8, 1945. My aunt was in Honolulu at that time, she lived on Moloka'i alone, and she had come to Honolulu. So she wasn't even here when that happened, she was in Honolulu. So she and my mother came up here and they worked scraping this thing up because both the houses were knocked down. And lot of the things were gone, the wave had taken them out, people around here stole the stuff, nobody here, huh? You know, drifting down the beach, and whatnot. So then my mother came up here and worked fairly often. She was really tired when she got back. Then she got sick, she had a heart problem after that. Stayed in the hospital for four days and she died.

JJ: Was that right after, in 1946?

WD: Mm hmm. So then my aunt came to Honolulu for the funeral. And then she stayed down there, and then finally, I'd say was August or September, she tells me she'd give me this ranch. I told her I didn't want it. She wanted to give me half and I know in my heart that wouldn't work out. I'd want to do something and she wouldn't want to do it and so I said, "No, I don't want it. You want to give it to me, you give it to me all or nothing."

So it turned out that she decided to give it all to me and said, "Well, I still want a place."

I said, "Well, I'll give you a life interest in that bottom piece. I'll fix up the house and you want to come back"—she had decided then to stay in Honolulu—so, "If you want to come back, why, you have a house," because I was going to build this. So I stayed there until—'56 I built this. Because I was trying to get the ranch done and meanwhile I'd cut this lot, because this was straight down, level it off. So then I built it and then after I built this, then she moved back up here. But, you know, you can't live there all our life and you can't go away and expect to come back. Your old friends are all gone. So she was only here a little while and she went back to Honolulu.

JJ: So were you here in 1957 when that wave came?

WD: [Nineteen] fifty-seven, I was here. Yeah.

JJ: Was there any run-up here?

WD: Well, I don't know where I lived. I'd moved up here to this house in '57, January of '57. And I don't remember a tidal wave in '57 that did anything because there wasn't anything here that I saw. The only next one I remember was in the [19]60s.

JJ: There were two in the [19]60s. There was one in 1960, the one that did all the damage in Hilo, and also one in 1964.

WD: Well, I thought the one that hit here was in '63, but I don't remember. Because my aunt was here, she moved up here and this one was at night.

JJ: Mm hmm, 1960 was the night one.

WD: Was the night one?

JJ: Mm hmm.

WD: Okay, and because my neighbor down here—my aunt had moved up here—so my neighbor down here came up here, and then his wife and the kids and everything, and the kids from over here, they all came up. But my aunt didn't come up. So the wife of the Smiths over there and the husband weren't getting along. But from the '46 tidal wave, there was a shack that my aunt had over there that was for the laundry gal who did the laundry and ironing and all that. That had floated over to his yard, so they gave it to him. Let it stay there. So he was living there. Then he came up here and told me that, hey, my aunt doesn't want to get out. I said, "Okay."

I jumped in my jeep and I went down that same driveway and the water was up to almost over the top of the wheels of the jeep. So I parked, I went in, I got her and I told her, "You'd gotta get out of here." So I got her out and brought her up here and then she stayed for a little while. I don't know what happened, so many people were milling around. I looked around and she was gone, she'd gone back down again. So by that time, it had receded, see. So I went down and sure enough, she was down there.

"Ah," she says, "I'm going to stay here. I'll be all right."

The tidal wave is going out so I didn't try to get her to come up, but what happened. . . . I had a Buick and I sold it to her when she moved up here. She had it in the garage down there and the wave was strong enough it pushed the car out about, oh maybe, from here to your car, out of the garage. So when I went down in the morning, just after daylight, why, I scrounged around out there to look and see what happened. Because on the beach side, when the water receded, there was a six-foot ditch right out to the beach. So I looked underneath the house and there was—the water line was up one inch to the floor. Otherwise, it would've floated that house.

So then I had a dozer so I had to get that out. I went down on the outside at low tide and pushed all the stuff back in and filled the hole with a big—oh, it's about five- to six-foot wide and about six-foot deep. Right out, when the water just rushed out, see? Luckily, they come up under the house.

JJ: Could you see it? Was it dark?

WD: Oh, it was dark.

JJ: It was—what time was it? Do you remember?

WD: I'd get it around, oh, I thought it was around midnight. But I don't know, someone said it was two in the morning. But I don't know, because I didn't pay too much about time. I was running around I had so many people in cars coming up and whatnot. So I didn't pay too much attention to the time, I don't really know.

JJ: Was it dark, or was there a moon that night?

WD: Dark. It was dark, you couldn't see anything.

JJ: So you really—could you tell the damage at night or did you have to wait till morning?

WD: Oh, I waited until morning, till it was daylight before I go down. Of course, after it receded, why, people started going home. But they were here for about two or three hours, I guess. Had all the lights on and people calling and saying, "Are you all right?" and all of that, so, you know. But it was night so you couldn't really see what happened.

JJ: Did it wash any of the road out along . . . ?

WD: No, no. It didn't come up that high. [Nineteen] forty-six one did. I mean, when I came up the latter part of '46, either August or October, there was still rubbish hanging on the fence. Both those houses were down. This house over here was in this yard, in the yard here. Well, there was one old house here. That was completely washed out. And then the next house was over here in the pasture. And then the next house was completely gone. And then Ashford's house, Marguerite Ashford—I don't know if you know, heard of Marguerite. Well, she lived next door. Her house was half on the street. But you know, by the time I came up, why, those had all been moved down and new houses built. One house, Ashfords moved their house back out. I saw that because of the pictures that were taken.

JJ: They rebuilt it further back on the lot then?

WD: No, they didn't. They owned a lot below the road, so they just moved back where the house was.

JJ: Oh, I see.

(Laughter)

JJ: So how many times has that house down there of yours then, has been hit by water, or almost hit?

WD: Well, the only one that I can ever remember was the '46 tidal wave that really did any damage. Took it right out. There was a row of coconut trees right out—that was a big pond, right where you see this fence is right here, there was a big pond in there. On the other side of that were coconut trees, and the house was on the other side of the coconut trees. But when the wave came, it jammed the house, the back end of it, into the coconut trees. That's what stopped it from going in the pond. The other house, which was called my mother's house, this is the one we stayed in. You see those tall coconut trees, between these two sets of coconut trees there, it's just ironwood trees now. The house sat out in there, just right off of the beach.

JJ: Did you move the house back to its present location?

- WD: No, no, I moved it over here. They were over here. One was over here. Well, you take the—you see the highest ironwood tree there, when you looking on Maui you can see a part of it? Well, straight down below was a house there with a rusted roof. And the house had joined on in back of that, set back of those highest ironwood trees on this side, on the beach. But the smaller house was just knocked down off its foundation, it wasn't moved. But this big house was moved. So the brunt of the wave was this side, not on that side.
- JJ: So it came in from the Hālawa side.
- WD: Yeah. Came in this way, see.
- JJ: So, with the cleanup, was there any military help here or did everybody just do their own cleanup?
- WD: I don't know, I wasn't here. I can't tell you who cleaned it up. I think what happened was that just the folks around here. Because at that time, there was Sam Pedro, Alfred Jones, and a fellow by the name of Makaena were here and they ran up here, right up this hill, when they saw the tidal wave. They were working for my aunt. And I think they were—I don't know whether they—they used to slaughter the animals here, see, and then the store would come out and get the carcass, take it out. I don't know what they were doing, but they were here when the tidal wave happened. Because Sam Pedro, I don't know, do you have his name down?
- JJ: I'm not sure. I think that sounds familiar.
- WD: Because I was telling Mike about it, I mean Miles. But Alfred Jones had died then, but Sam Pedro, he was a young boy then. And they ran up here where the tank is here and watched all this happening. The water came across the road, he said, and almost up to the barn.
- JJ: Oh, this high up.
- WD: Yeah. No, the barn way down. You can't see it. It's down on the flat there.
- JJ: That's still quite a ways inland, isn't it?
- WD: Yeah.
- JJ: How far would you say?
- WD: Oh, six hundred, about eight hundred feet. From road to the beach here is about six hundred. There's probably about another three hundred, four hundred by the barn. But by the time it go to the barn, it petered out. But on the five-wire fence here, when I came up, there was rubbish still hanging on the second wire down from the top.
- JJ: Wow. Do you think there were any changes, socially, around here because of the tidal wave? Was there anybody that moved out and wouldn't live there anymore?
- WD: No, there was—most of these when something happened, they rebuilt and stayed. Other people that moved in and built houses, they're not afraid of it. (Chuckles) You know, the water. But, like I say, I didn't move out, come back, until I think it was, September or October of '46. And then I had lived at Pau Hāna [Inn] because all of this was down and you know, we didn't have any power, no electricity out here.

JJ: What about water? Did it do anything to your water?

WD: We had our own water, I had a windmill. You see the old windmill? The tower is down there, that's all right below the hill over there. And then I had a redwood tank up here, which took water down. But the rest of these all had wells.

JJ: Did the salt water contaminate the wells?

WD: I don't know. Didn't go into ours because it was high up. But I imagine some of these, you know, lot of these just had outhouses, too, you know. I guess they all got flooded out. I don't know because it was months after the tidal wave before I got up here.

JJ: In the 1960 tidal wave, was the electricity disrupted down below?

WD: No. It wasn't—we'd gotten electricity about that time. It didn't hurt that. We got electricity because when this house was built, we had electricity. This and this. So this was built in, oh, '56. When we moved, it was finished at the end of '56. So we had electricity by then.

But when I first came by, first lived down there before I lived here after I built the houses, I had a small generating plant. But you had kerosene iceboxes, you see, until they put in the electricity. And we had to really fight for that, see, because over here, you only have two wires, huh? But then when they wanted to put a well down there by—I don't know, you saw that old store down there with the gas pump? Well, it was Ah Ping's store, but just in back of that up on the hill was where the well is, for the county well. And they had a small plant down there that pumped the water, see. But then they put a big three-million-gallon tank, I think, there. They wanted it so they brought power all the way out to there. And we had to fight to get power out here. Finally got it and it's really good now, I mean. But we only had two phase here, see. The third phase stops down there but eventually I guess they'll put in another line. And we all had the old telephone, you know, box that you had to crank, and then everybody would be listening in. They knew it all (chuckles).

JJ: Do you remember your phone number?

WD: No, I don't. I don't remember it. I don't remember the number. And so many rings.

JJ: So many long and so many short.

WD: Yeah. (Chuckles) No, I don't remember it. So that's about it as far as the '46 tidal wave. I mean, I just wasn't here. And like I said, on the [19]60, that's the one that dug a big hole down there and I filled that up.

JJ: What was it, do you think, that dug the hole? Was it a rock moving out or . . .

WD: Well, that area down there is all sand. When you have too much water and this part on this side was little bit higher, see. So then when I went out, it just sucked right out. That was the problem.

JJ: Has there been anything, any tidal wave since then, that affected this area at all that you know?

WD: You mean has it changed the shoreline or anything like that? No, what it did do, the big one, the '46 one, we had a fish pond wall out here and it knocked that down. And we've been trying to restore it and whatnot, but everybody knocks it and so had to quit, you know. They say you don't

own it so. . . . We haven't done anything about it but we hope someday we can get it squared away. Because it's a good protection, see. But it just flattened it.

JJ: So are the rocks all there, under water?

WD: Oh yeah, they were moved all around. They were moved. They're all there. I mean, you gotta go and dig them up now and put them up and whatnot. But they're all big rocks, they didn't wash away into the beach or anything. But a lot of the beaches were eroded because of that because now you have the breakers coming right over the wall. Of course, they broke it a little bit but they still start eating into the sand, and moving the sand. Which is happening all over the Islands.

JJ: Is there somebody living down in those two beach houses now?

WD: Yeah, my son lives there, he and his wife. He's manager of Bank of Hawai'i. He's been there now for. . . . I guess it's either the ninth or tenth year. So he likes it. He called me up and he was with First Hawaiian Bank on Kaua'i. And they called me up one day—I don't know if you know Pearl Petro down here. She was Pearl Friel, has that big house on the hill, where that glass house is. I don't know if you saw it. It was up there. Well, anyhow, she was manager of the bank here, then she retired. And Kip was the assistant manager on Kaua'i, in Lihu'e bank. So he called me and he says, "Hey, somebody told me there's an opening on Moloka'i Bank of Hawai'i." He said, "What do you think about me coming up and taking a look?"

I said, "Yeah, come on up. At least if you get it, you'll be the cheese. Down there you're only the second guy."

He didn't get along too good with the head guy, who was Japanese guy, who played golf most of his time and Kip was doing the work. So anyhow, Kip came up and I had moved in here.

I said, "Well, you can stay down there if you fix the house up." Because my aunt had rented it and it just went to pot. The guy, this big Hawaiian guy, married to an Indian, just didn't take care of anything. So anyhow, Kip came up and he looked and I said, "You can stay there. It won't cost you anything except fix the house up."

So he says, "Okay, we'll see about whether or not." Then he went down and told the bank guy in Honolulu, I guess, that he'd take the job. And he said okay. So he came up here and he stayed down there at Wavecrest [Resort], oh, maybe a couple of weeks or maybe a month. And then he got a crew from Kaua'i that come over and then one week they put the whole house back together again and they moved in. And they've been there ever since.

JJ: Do you have any other children?

WD: I had another son but he died. He was on Kaua'i, too. He died young. He went to the Mainland and he and his wife went up to buy some horses and he got a sore leg. He couldn't walk, he had a heck of a time. Lived on aspirin and whatnot and flew back here. And he went to the doctor on Kaua'i and the doctor told him he had cancer. That was on the 17th of October. On the 27th, he was dead, ten days later.

JJ: Oh my goodness.

WD: Just like that. I went over to see him and I was there, talking and you know. He sounded real good

to me. Both Kip and I went over. So we flew back and then I told him I was going to come home—I was living in Honolulu then, my wife was sick. So I said, “Well, I’ll fly back tomorrow, I’ll come back again, spend the day with you.” I got that call in the morning he had died.

JJ: How old was he?

WD: He was forty-something. Young. So that’s what happens.

JJ: Now, you said that your mother was part Hawaiian, too.

WD: Yeah, my mother was half, my grandmother was pure Hawaiian.

JJ: What was her name?

WD: Mikala Maau. M-A-A-U. Not Chinese, that’s Hawaiian. M-A-U is Chinese. Maau. She was born on Ford Island. Educated Hawaiian. She died young, and my aunt—my grandfather had three girls from his first wife. Second wife was a McDuff from Maui, part Hawaiian. She had one girl, (and she died). Then he (Grandfather) married, then he built the hospital down Kaulaupapa for the leprosy people. He lived up here with Meyers up in Ka’alae. He had met one of the Meyer girls, he married the Meyer girl. Then he had one boy and three girls. And the youngest girl is still living. She’s ninety-eight, my aunt. Her birthday was on April 6. I call her. Her mind is just as sharp as can be except she can’t walk around too much.

JJ: Does she live on Moloka’i?

WD: No, she lives in Sonoma, California.

JJ: Ninety-eight.

WD: I talk to her about, oh, maybe once every three or four months. I call her up, see how she is. And I go up, I always go and see her, take her to lunch and whatnot. They’re supposed to be—the Meyers are supposed to be having a big powwow but I talked to her in April and she said, “I can’t come down.” It’s too hard on her. So she won’t come down. So that’s the story of my life.

JJ: Do you have anything else that you’d like to add before we finish here?

WD: Not really, I hope we don’t have all these damn storms and whatnot and El Nino and whatnot like they did on the Mainland. My God, I just read in the paper that one that they just had. This whole town was wiped out, six people killed. In today’s paper.

JJ: Was that just recently?

WD: Yeah, it’s in today’s paper. California’s been taking a beating. I don’t know, there’s no place like Hawai’i, but I hope we don’t have all of that kind of stuff coming here. You know the one that—what was the one?

JJ: The hurricane?

WD: Yeah, the one that hit Kaua’i.

JJ: ‘Iniki.

WD: 'Iniki, yeah. I was in California then. I drove from Pittsburgh. We were staying up with my wife's brother in Pittsburgh. So I drove to San Francisco to see my cousin and I went over the Oakland Bridge. It was like this.

JJ: Oh. Swaying.

WD: Swaying. Yeah. I got across that and then I went over and saw him, we had lunch with him, and then I came back. I came back over on the shorter bridge. . . .

JJ: The bay bridge?

WD: The bay bridge.

JJ: The Golden Gate [Bridge].

WD: The Golden Gate. And that was this way. Then I went up and I got the bridge that went over to Richmond and headed out. And every one was rocking. When I went down, there was a—you know these big van, trailer rigs. God, they were just going like this, the wind blowing them. And back of one of them was a small Volkswagen bug, and I was in back of the bug, and that bug was going like this (chuckles), you know, trying to keep the thing straight. The wind was so strong. The whole bridge was going like this. Oh boy. So that's how I went through 'Iniki (laughs).

JJ: Well, thank you very much, I appreciate you letting me interview you.

WD: Well, I wish I could give you more dope on the '46 but I was just wasn't here. I was in Honolulu.

JJ: I appreciate what you shared.

WD: I just got here to get (chuckles) into the mess that it was. Clean up.

JJ: Well, thank you for letting me interview you.

WD: Good.

END OF INTERVIEW

TSUNAMIS IN MAUI COUNTY: Oral Histories

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